

Wednesday, May 25, 2005

Duxbury Clipper

## Fire Destroys Standish Street Structures

By KEITH L. MARTIN

Two historic buildings were destroyed following an early morning fire on Standish Street Saturday which also injured a Duxbury firefighter.

Deputy Chief John Bowser of the Duxbury Fire Department said a call came in shortly after midnight of heavy flames shooting out of a barn at 125 Standish Street. The department responded with two of its engines and a ladder truck and also called in mutual aid from the towns of Marshfield, Kingston and Pembroke.

"When we got to the house, there was heavy fire on the south side of a barn and attached workshop," said Bowser. "It was a difficult fire because of the heat involved. There was a pair of fiberglass boats inside the garage that generated added heat to the fire."

Bowser said in fighting the fire, one Duxbury firefighter suffered first and second degree burns and was treated and released from Jordan Hospital. He said that the firefighter, identified by the *Clipper* as Buzz Wadsworth, would miss a couple of shifts due to his injuries.

The cause of the fire, said Bowser, is believed to be an electrical short in a guest-

house next to the barn where the fire originated and then spread to the adjacent 30-foot by 60-foot barn and a 14-foot by 24-foot workshop.

Patricia Lowry of 125 Standish Street said she and her husband, David, were asleep at the time of the fire and awoken by a Duxbury police officer who told them of the fire and to evacuate their home.

"We ran out of the house to see the barn ablaze," said Lowry. "By the time we got out of the house the fire department was here. They were quick to act, but the barn was fully engulfed with fire by then."

Lowry said that the barn was built in the 1880s and that the guesthouse was believed to have been built between 1750 and 1770. Despite the loss, Lowry was thankful for the safety of her family and the quick action of the firefighters.

"We were lucky it was not windy and the fire spread further," she said. "The newer [ladder truck] bought by the town a while back saved our garage and possibly our house as it just continually coated the fire."

Bowser said that all three structures were a total loss and estimated the damage at between \$500,000 and \$600,000.

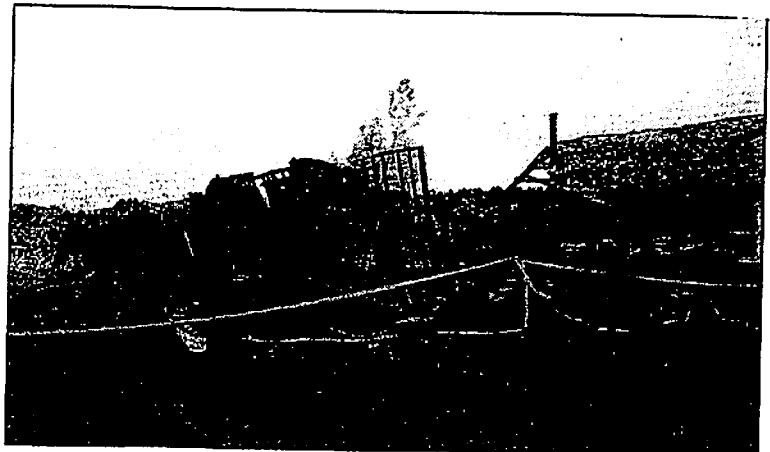
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Duxbury firefighters fought Saturday's blaze with the help of Kingston and Marshfield personnel, who also responded to Standish Street.

*Photo by Bill Wadsworth*



An early morning fire on Saturday destroyed a barn, workshop and guesthouse at 125 Standish Street. Fire officials estimate the damage at \$500,000-\$600,000.